

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An autonomous device (4) for blanking out the light radiation emitted by at least one star (1), where the device (4) includes means (43) designed to control propulsion means (44) which themselves are designed to move or stop the device (4) in space and/or in a pseudo-orbit in space around an observation telescope (2) that includes an observation aperture (21), ~~characterised in that it includes~~ including a blanking screen (40), with the control means (43) of the propulsion means (44) also being designed to position the screen (40) on a line of sight (3) between the telescope (2) and the star (1) during a period of observation, so that the light radiation from the star (1) is at least partially blanked from the observation aperture (21) of the telescope (2) during the said observation period.

2. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein one blanking dimension (41) of the screen (40) is of the order of magnitude of the observation aperture (21) of the telescope (2).

3. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~either of claims 1 or 2,~~ claim 1, wherein the screen (40) is flexible and/or articulated.

4. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the screen includes means (42) designed to deploy or fold the screen (40).

5. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4,~~ claim 1, including means (45) designed to move the screen (40) in relation to the device (4) in order to modify the degree of blanking of the light from the star (1) in relation to the observation aperture (21) of the telescope (2).

6. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 5,~~ claim 1, also including reflectors (46) of a laser signal, or radio responders, for positioning the device (4).

7. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6,~~ claim 1, wherein the propulsion means (44) are also designed to position the device (4) in a pseudo-orbit around the telescope (2).

8. (Currently amended) An assembly that includes an observation telescope (2) which includes an observation aperture (21) ~~characterised in that it includes~~ including at least one device (4) according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

9. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the telescope (2) includes reflectors (26) of a laser signal or radio responders for positioning the telescope (2).

10. (Currently amended) A method for at least partial blanking of the light radiation emitted by at least one star (1) from the observation aperture (21) of an observation telescope (2) in space, where the blanking occurs during a period of observation, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ including steps in which control is exercised over means (43) that are designed to control the propulsion means (44) of at least one autonomous blanking device (4) in a pseudo-orbit in space around the telescope (2) in order to position a screen (40) of the device (4) on the line of sight (3) between the telescope (2) and the star (1) during the said observation period.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the position of the blanking device (4) and of the telescope (2) are determined by means of at least one radio or laser burst.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~either of claims 10 or 11,~~ claim 10, wherein, in order to modify the degree of blanking of the light from the star (1) in relation to the observation aperture (21) of the telescope (2), means (45) are employed to move the screen (40) in relation to the device (4).